

BEST BUY £1000-£2000**ATC SCM 12** £1000

IF SOUND QUALITY is your prime concern – and let's face it, at this price point it should be – then these ATCs are a must-listen proposition. They may look functional, but boy do they sound good.

Mount the ATCs on solid stands, such as Partington's Super Dreadnoughts, and the results are as natural and detailed as they get at this price. The tonal balance is beautifully even, right down to the lowest frequencies.

Unusually, ATC has chosen to go without a ported cabinet, as the company feels a sealed enclosure gives more accurate bass. We're certainly not going to argue, because the results speak for themselves.

Listen to commercial hip-hop and low frequencies are breath-takingly taut and tuneful. The mid/bass unit is a superb piece of heavy engineering, and has no trouble coping with

large power inputs. Leading-edge information is sharply defined, as are the harmonics that follow.

The SCM 12s sound as good with gentle acoustic soul as they do with grand symphonies. However, they don't flatter the music or recording, so if the piece is poorly recorded then that's what you'll hear.

Detail resolution is top class, as is the delivery of dynamics. If the rest of the system matches the ATCs' high standards, the results will amaze.

But they require patience: they won't blow you away immediately, rather their appeal grows over time. Like a fine wine, these monitors mature with time, and they benefit from several days' running in.

OK, the SCM 12s aren't much to look at, but who cares when they sound so amazingly good?



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TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Sensitivity 86dB/w/m
 Impedance 4 ohms
 Treble drive unit
 28mm soft dome
 Mid/bass drive unit
 17cm polypropylene
 cone
 Dimensions (hxxwxd)
 33 x 20.4 x 25.6cm